

## COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



### COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**KATE BROWNING**  
County Legislator, 3rd District

Health and Human Services, Chair

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**Media Advisory**  
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# GIVE NORA A MIRACLE!

*Legislator Browning and the MBPOA Hosting Blood & Marrow Drive for  
Six Year Old with Rare Disease*



**Who:** **Legislator Kate Browning**, Suffolk County Legislator, 3<sup>rd</sup> LD  
**Robert DeBona**, President, Mastic Beach Property Owners Association  
**The Getchell Family**  
**Bone Marrow and Blood Donors**

**What:** Nora Getchell is six years old. She loves kindergarten, and has a talent for ribbon dancing. She also has a very rare autoimmune disease called Severe Aplastic Anemia—a disease of the bone marrow with no known cause. Her marrow is no longer making blood (red, white and platelet cells) and her T cells are attacking her normal cells in her bone marrow. Her body is literally destroying itself on the cellular level. We will be taking blood donations and as well be cheek swabbing at the drive in order to register individuals on the National Bone Marrow Registry.

**Why:** Nora's best chance for complete remission was a bone marrow transplant from her sibling. Her only brother, unfortunately, is not a match. To keep her alive, she needs a bag of platelets once a week and a pint of whole blood every two weeks. **She will need over 100 pints of blood product every year.** The cheek swab is painless; a Q-tip to the cheek for 30 seconds, and if you match, you can save Nora's life... or the life of one of the THOUSANDS

of kids waiting for a bone marrow donor. Giving blood/platelets will be truly giving her the GIFT OF LIFE.

**Where:** Mastic Beach Property Owners Association - 31 Neighborhood Rd, Mastic Beach 11951

**When:** Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> 2:30pm – 8:30pm.

\*The Mastic Beach Property Owner's Association will also be holding a fundraiser in August to help raise funds for the family. It is \$52 for every prospective Bone Marrow donor that gets a swab. The money raised will help pay for this and other medical expenses the family incurs.

# Thank you for all who give!

With your help, **one day, she will be able to play with her friends again.**

Please keep her in your prayers.